

# Honorary Professor of Law

## *A Citation*

### ***Professor Sir David Williams***

QC; DL; MA; LLB (Cantab.); LLM (Calif.); Hon LLD; Hon DLitt,  
Emeritus Vice-Chancellor and Emeritus Professor of the University of Cambridge

The Chinese University of Hong Kong is privileged to present the award of Honorary Professorship to Professor Sir David Williams.

Sir David's experience as an academic, practicing barrister, advisor to governments throughout the world and as a distinguished Emeritus Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge helped to set new standards for legal education in the School of Law through his Chairmanship of the Legal Academic Advisory Committee. The award of Honorary Professor to Sir David marks our gratitude for his contribution as an outstanding public law professor to the establishment of the School of Law.

Sir David is an Honorary Queen's Counsel and was knighted in 1991. Among other distinctions, Sir David was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge from 1989 to 1996 where he was also Rouse Ball Professor of English Law and President of Wolfson College; and he is now Vice-Chancellor Emeritus of Cambridge University, Emeritus Rouse Ball Professor of English Law and President of Swansea University, University of Wales. Among his many other achievements, Sir David is a member of the American Law Institute and an Honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.


Sir David has achieved distinction at both the highest level of legal scholarship and at the summit of academic government. It has been truly said of him that:

"In whatever activity or office, he enriched the human life around him."

Sir David's best known books, *Not in the Public Interest: The Problem of Security in Democracy* and *Keeping the Peace: the Police and Public Order* together with his analysis of the principles of freedom of assembly, freedom of expression and public order in administrative and constitutional law continue to be path-breaking.

Sir David has made magisterial contributions to the law of civil liberties, the law on accountability, on tribunals, justiciability in the exercise of judicial review and the administration of justice. Another hugely important area of scholarship has been his work on official secrecy which has profoundly changed the legal landscape in the United Kingdom.

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In addition, Sir David's public service on such bodies as the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution and the Commission for Energy and the Environment has been widely influential.

As Chairman of the Law Academic Advisory Committee to the School of Law, Sir David Williams has enlightened all of us and helped us begin the process of making the vision of the new School of Law a reality.

The Chinese University of Hong Kong is deeply honoured that Sir David has accepted the award of Honorary Professorship and wish to express our gratitude for enriching our lives with his wisdom.

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